Section 4 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, the Central Government have the exclusive privilege of conveying letters by post, from one place to another, performing all the incidental services of receiving, collecting, sending, dispatching and delivering all letters, with some exceptions.

(c) Does not rise in view of (a) & (b) above. However, the Department of Posts has started fast mail services like Speed Post and e-Post for Postal clientele.

(d) Does not rise in view of (a) & (b) above.

Provisions to ensure secrecy in cyber laws

1348. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether enough provisions have been made to ensure secrecy in cyber laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the present laws for protecting and safeguarding secrecy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Section 72 of the Information Technology Act, 2000, provides for Penal provision for breach of confidentiality and privacy of the data.

Sharing of optical fibre network of BSNL with other companies

1349. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rural teledensity is 1.9 percent while urban teledensity is 31.1 percent;

(b) the reasons for which Government had refused to allow other telecom companies to use BSNL's optical fibre to provide broadband internet as recommended by the TRAI; and

(c) whether Government will allow other telecom companies to use BSNL's optical fibre to connect rural areas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) As on 31.12.2005, rural teledensity is 1.8% and urban teledensity is 34.77%.

(b) and (c) Other Telecom service companies can enter into mutual agreements with BSNL for sharing the optical fibre on agreed terms and purposes, including broadband internet.

Introduction of 3G policy

1350. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to introduce 3G policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that once the 3G policy is implemented it would help promote faster roll out of rural applications; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) While no time frame has been fixed for introduction of 3G technology, some of the Service Providers may commence roll out of 3G services in next financial year.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, the 3G technology, due to better spectral efficiency, would provide higher capacity and essentially targets to provide additional features to the customers including broadband wireless services.

Telecommunication links in border areas

1351. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish telecommunication links for better border management;

(b) if so, the details of border areas where this link is proposed to be provided;

(c) the total estimated cost of establishing the telecommunication links; and

(d) the time likely to be taken to complete this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The